

9 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports
FROM: Chief, Geographic Research
SUBJECT: GRA Activity Report for the Month of February 1960

A. Research and Technical Support Activity

1. The Geography Division completed and disseminated one Geographic Intelligence Memorandum (GM 60-2, Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia); seven Geographic Intelligence Reports (GR L-60-1, Cuba: Parts III, V, VII, X, XII, XIV, XV); and 23 Geographic Support Projects in the GP series. Among the GP projects were three contributions to the NIS program and ten items in support of an I/GM project.

2. The Cartography Division accepted requests for 163 maps and charts and completed 110. Total jobs in the Division at the end of February were 533, versus 480 in January. The Division completed the first phase of the Cuba project being undertaken in cooperation with D/GC. Maps were completed for two special projects for the Economic Area: three maps and three charts for EIC R-14, and four maps and four charts for [REDACTED] to be held in June.

3. The Map Library Division forwarded 28,683 items to requesters in response to 2,123 requests for maps, related geographic publications and reference information. Requests filled included 14 for maps needed in connection with the President's trip to South America and those for maps and charts for the use of the Department of State delegate to the Law of the Sea Delegation in Geneva, Switzerland. Significant items procured from foreign sources during the month included various 1959 city plans and economic maps of the Soviet Zone of Germany; a 1959 map of Soviet Central Asia and Kazakhstan; a new administrative division map of Czechoslovakia; and 25 recent Russian hydrographic charts of Antarctica.

25X1X7

4. Support provided [REDACTED] resulted in the completion of all but 4 of the 35 maps scheduled for calendar year 1959. Completion of the remaining four is anticipated in March. However, D/GC has been asked to supply reproduction support for the completion of town plans now being drafted [REDACTED] which their reproduction facilities will be unable to handle.

~~SECRET~~

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: GRA Activity Report for the Month of February 1960

5. A Five-Year Summary of Map Procurement, 1955-1959, showed a total of 286,742 map sheets procured. Of these, 35% were for AMS, 34% for CIA, 21% for the Library of Congress, and the remaining 10% for various other Government mapping agencies. Purchases accounted for 46% of the total procurement; exchanges for 37%; and gifts for 17%. Procurement from the Soviet Bloc totaled almost 10,000 sheets, three times the procurement in the previous five-year period. Outside the Sino-Soviet Bloc, the deficiencies in procurement were chiefly in areas not regularly visited by Geographic Attaches.

6. Upon request of the Technical Services Division, Department of Commerce, the Atlas of Communist China Administrative Units was sent to Reproduction for rerun. A total of 500 copies have been requested -- 200 for public sale and 300 for reserve. The delivery date is scheduled for 21 March.

B. Planning and Development

25X1A9a 1. As a result of CIA estimates of Soviet threats to U.S. pre-eminence in Antarctica -- as well as CIA representations on the need for a U.S. mapping program to strengthen the future U.S. position, plans are now being developed for the first systematic U.S. mapping program in Antarctica. [REDACTED] has been invited to participate with a special ad hoc subcommittee to draft a statement on this program.

25X1A9a 2. As an outgrowth of previous negotiations with OO, plans were completed to review and exploit the unpublished materials on West China [REDACTED], Geography Division, 25X1A5a1 will conduct the review and, through the OO field office, arrange for the typing and photostatting support required.

25X1A9a 3. Arrangements have been made to have all Geography Division reports (exclusive of the NIS) typed in final form in St/P. St/P/G will call on Chief, St/P, for typing assistance when the load is such that [REDACTED] publications typist, cannot handle it. Except when St/P cannot provide the augmentation needed, only draft typing will be performed in D/GG. The D/GG front office will continue to handle final processing, including corrections, running off ditto copies, and report assembly.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: GRA Activity Report for the Month of February 1960

25X1X7

25X1A9ax

25X1X7

2. As a follow-up to [REDACTED] recent trip, [REDACTED] briefed the transmittal of [REDACTED] information on Antarctica. Also, he summarized the Soviet Antarctic activities with particular emphasis on the Soviet geodetic and gravimetric traverse, its contribution to the Soviet World Geodetic System, and its implications for increased future use of Antarctica for space research and missile impacting on Antarctic ice.

3. At the direction of the MIS Committee, a meeting of the Chapter IX Subcommittee was held on 4 February to discuss possible revision of the Chapter IX format. The discussion was limited to basic ideas and principles, and several ideas for a complete reorganization of the Chapter were advanced. The Subcommittee agreed that a survey of Chapter IX readership would be helpful in formulating revision proposals, and it appointed an ad hoc group to develop a supporting questionnaire. Subsequently, however, the Chairman was informed by [REDACTED] that OBI would not countenance questionnaires, and the ad hoc group was disbanded. The Subcommittee will reconvene on 11 March to examine revision possibilities in more detail.

25X1A9a

4. Intelligence analyses and estimates prepared by [REDACTED] for OCB resulted in the U.S. Navy's effecting an icebreaker penetration of the hitherto impenetrable Bellingshausen Sea and landing a party on Thurston Peninsula before the Soviets could attempt an anticipated sea-air landing.

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

5. The Southeast Asia Discussion Group held a regular monthly meeting at which [REDACTED] of D/GG presented a selection of slides with appropriate commentary on Southeast Asian areas. [REDACTED] OCI, succeeds [REDACTED] as Chairman.

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

6. [REDACTED], Senior Research Staff, DD/I, presented an analysis of the Communist attitude toward Africa at the February meeting of the Africa Roundtable.

7. Chief, Development and Construction Branch, D/GC, spent two days at ACIC, St. Louis, while enroute to a 10-day assignment at an Agency training camp. The purpose was to discuss technical and substantive aspects of a special Agency map requirement which is being prepared by the Air Force.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: GRA Activity Report for the Month of February 1960

25X1A9a

8. Questions raised by [REDACTED] regarding the interest of the United States in giving mapping assistance to Syria were discussed with representatives in ACSI and the Air Force, and with the Department of State Desk Officer.

9. Meetings were held by Map Library Division personnel with ICA and Yemen Desk Officers to discuss proposed aerial photography and mapping projects. The project in Egypt, which would result in aerial photography and geological mapping for a large part of the Western Desert, will probably be implemented soon. The proposed project for aerial mapping of Yemen is not receiving strong ICA support, primarily because of a shortage of funds.

D. Problems

1. Due to the impact of the Cuban project, the short deadlines on ERA work, and the Territorial Seas project, the Cartography Division failed to meet certain previously committed deadlines. Also, these rush projects required an almost excessive use of overtime in certain components of the Division.

2. For the second year in succession, specialized mathematical cartography courses offered by the USMA Graduate School have been cancelled because the minimum enrollment quotas were not met. The need for this specialized training is becoming more important in the Branch to keep abreast of technical developments in cartography, and some other means of obtaining the training may have to be devised.

3. In connection with the Atlas of Soviet Administrative Maps, the disclaimer note regarding U.S. recognition of boundaries on the index map was felt to be insufficient to avoid criticism; also, it was thought a similar, perhaps more specific, statement in the introduction should be included. The matter was pursued in the form of a question to Dr. Hodgson, IRC/GIS, Department of State, which has resulted in a memorandum defining the Department's position in this particular case, i.e., that a disclaimer note had to be affixed to each of the 117 sheets in the atlas. In subsequent discussions, it was decided that it would be desirable also to revise the title and introduction to avoid any statement that could be construed as U.S. recognition of the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and the acceptance of certain other boundaries.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: GRA Activity Report for the Month of February 1960

E. Miscellaneous

25X1A9a

1. [REDACTED] Chief, Special Support Branch, D/GC, will depart on 2 March to attend the special cartography course on map design being given by Dr. Eduard Imhof at the Federal Technical Institute in Zurich, Switzerland.

2. Arrangements have been made to cover the Geography Division room in the Special Center following the departure of [REDACTED] last month.

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

Distribution:

- 1 - AD/RR
- 1 - St/A
- 1 - St/I
- 1 - St/I/R
- 1 - St/P
- 1 - Ch/E
- 4 - D/GG
- 3 - D/GC
- 3 - D/GL
- 2 - Ch/G

ORR:Ch/G:JAB:jmc/4797 (9 March 1960)

S-E-C-R-E-T